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### **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Sen. Staton files legislation to put Photo Voter ID Constitutional Amendment on 2008 ballot**



**ATLANTA** – State Sen. Cecil Staton (R-Macon) pre-filed *Senate Resolution 4* today, calling for a Constitutional Amendment on Photo Voter ID. The legislation, if passed by a super majority (two-thirds) of the members of the Georgia General Assembly, will allow the citizens of Georgia to amend the state's Constitution to provide, by law, new elector identification procedures.

“For the last two years, the Georgia General Assembly has passed common sense legislation that requires a photo identification card for voting,” Sen. Staton, who authored Senate Bill 84 in 2005, said this morning.

The language in Sen. Staton's original piece of legislation was added to a comprehensive voting bill in 2005, and in 2006, Senate Bill 84 was amended to address the concerns of a federal judge who ruled the earlier legislation unconstitutional. In both cases, the legislation passed by sizable majorities in both the Senate and House of Representatives, and were signed into law by Gov. Perdue. Earlier this year, another judge struck down the new photo voter ID language and the new law, which went into effect in January, was not used in the 2006 elections.

“The courts continue to attempt to thwart what the General Assembly clearly wants to accomplish in order to protect the integrity of Georgia elections,” Sen. Staton continued. “That is why I am introducing this legislation calling for a Constitutional Amendment, so that Georgia citizens can have the final say at the ballot box.”

Sen. Staton said he believes the amendment will settle the issue as to whether the General Assembly has the right to protect Georgia elections by requiring a photo ID. “In a day of frequent identity theft and even evidence of illegal aliens being registered to vote, this is the least we can do.”

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*Sen. Cecil Staton represents the 18<sup>th</sup> Senate District which includes portions of Bibb, Crawford, Houston, Jones and Monroe counties. He may be reached by phone at 404.656.5039 or via e-mail at [cecil.staton@senate.state.gov](mailto:cecil.staton@senate.state.gov).*